Development of wool sector

†401. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the future potential of development of wool sector;

(b) the details of programmes and schemes being formulated by Government for development of the said sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the total investment proposed to be made in wool sector during the said Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) India manufactures and exports woollen yarn, fabrics, made-ups, readymade garments, hand-knotted and machine made carpets. The industry uses both indigenous and imported wool, the former going mainly to the woollen cottage industry in the hilly regions of the country and the carpet trade. Indigenous raw wool consumption and therefore production can increase of quality if the wool can be improved to suit market requirments.

(b) The Central Wool Development Board administered the following schemes for development of the sector during the year 2002-03:—

I. Improvement of quality and yield of wool

(i) Integrated Sheep & Wool Development Project
(ii) Machine Shearing-cum-Training Project
(iii) Wool Testing Centre
(iv) Industrial Service Centre
(v) Area based Project for Wool & Woollen Development
(vi) Wool Scouring & Mini Wool Scouring Plant

II. Human Resource Development/Research Development Scheme

(i) Weaving & Designing Training Centre (ii)
Human Resource Development

III. Development of Speciality Fibre Integrated Angora
Rabbit Development Project

IV. Promotional Activities

(i) Marketing Inteligence Network

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Promotional Activities
(iii) Woollen Expo

In 2003-04, it is implementing an Integrated Wool Improvement Programme for the overall growth and development of wool sector.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 40 crore has been kept for implementation of various schemes of the Central Wool Development Board during the 10th Five Year Plan period for the development of woollen sector.

Waiving off Excise Duty on Textiles Industry

402. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested to waive off excise duty on textile industry to improve its competency and capabilities to the global standards; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI.BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Following the receipt of representations from various quarters including Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard, a number of steps were taken. To illustrate:

(1) power loom weavers, having an annual turnover of Rs. 35 lakhs were given excise duty exemption on the unprocessed fabrics for the first clearance of Rs. 25 lakhs;

(2) manufacturers of readymade garments having an annual turnover of Rs. 40 lakhs were given excise duty exemption for the first clearance of Rs. 30 lakhs during the year;

(3) substantial procedural simplifications were made for the textile units, which have come into the excise net for the first time;

(4) facility has been provided to an exempted powerloom weaver to pass on excise duty credit even without obtaining excise registration;

(5) field formations of Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs were given strict instructions not to visit any textile units unless authorised by the senior officers for a specific task. Field formations were also instructed to condone procedural lapses by the manufacturers and traders unless it was done with an intent to defraud the exchequer.